

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Defense Manufacturer Expanding in Buncombe County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Feb. 28 that Kearfott Corporation is planning to expand its North Carolina manufacturing operations in Buncombe County. When the One NC grant is carried through to completion, it will result in the creation of 75 jobs and an investment of approximately \$11.8 million over the next three years in Black Mountain.

"By working closely with companies like Kearfott, together, we can get big things done to make Western North Carolina's economy stronger," said Governor McCrory. "Not only will this expansion encourage more economic growth in the region, it will also give an extra boost to North Carolina's flourishing advanced manufacturing workforce."

Kearfott Corporation is a full service design, manufacturing and support center for a variety of guidance and navigation systems for commercial and military applications. These include aircraft, spacecraft, sea systems and land vehicles. Kearfott currently employs 336 workers in North Carolina.

"Better-paying jobs are the key to thriving communities, which are essential to the economic well-being of our entire state," said Secretary Decker. "We thank Kearfott Corporation for their continuing commitment to Western North Carolina."

"Kearfott carefully evaluated several potential locations for expansion, with Western North Carolina emerging as the clear winner," said Kearfott President Craig Scott. "Our high technology inertial and motion control product line developments depend on the highly- skilled workforce available in the region. We have had a long-standing presence in the area and are pleased to contribute to the well-being of the community."

[Bill Payne](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Shopping Bag Manufacturer Coming to Rutherford County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Bonita Manufacturing Products, Inc., doing business as Bonita Pioneer, is locating its North Carolina manufacturing operations in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 50 jobs and invest more than \$2.8 million over the next three years in Forest City. [Cindy Messer](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"Today's job announcement shows that by working together and effectively leveraging our state's talent and resources, North Carolina can be a leader in manufacturing," said Governor McCrory. "Bonita Pioneer will continue to grow nationally, and Rutherford County's strong workforce stands ready to deliver."

Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Bonita Pioneer is an award winning international supplier of custom and stock packaging products. The company produces paper shopping bags, gift wrap, merchandise bags, and folding cartons. Their products are used in retail and commercial applications throughout the United States and Canada.

"As someone who calls Rutherford County home, I am thrilled to see Bonita Pioneer's commitment to bring new jobs and economic development to our state," said Secretary Decker. "By emphasizing workforce development, training and education, North Carolina will continue to lead the way in the resurgence of American manufacturing."

"We are extremely excited to announce the establishment of this manufacturing and distribution facility in Rutherford County, North Carolina," said Thomas Shaw, vice president of manufacturing. "We conducted an exhaustive search throughout the southeastern portion of the United States. The reception we received throughout North Carolina was amazing and made for a very difficult decision-making process in selecting the county in which to locate this operation. We are aware of the rich manufacturing

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Buncombe County, and the Economic Development Coalition of Asheville-Buncombe County.



N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker (center) talks with Mayor Bruce Rose (left) and Henry Walston, of Wilson Downtown Development Corp. at the the former Hi-Dollar Warehouse during a tour of the Wilson historic business district Feb. 28. Photo: Gray Whitley, Wilson Times

Wilson Development Impresses Decker

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker visited Wilson recently and discussed ways in which the Commerce Department might facilitate state funding in support of downtown revitalization efforts in the city.

Decker visited Wilson for nearly four hours Feb. 28 in an effort to see and better understand projects and investments under way in areas surrounding the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park. The park is one of the keys driving investment, said Kimberly Van Dyk, Wilson's downtown manager.

"I was very encouraged by the visit," Secretary Decker said. "What I've seen Wilson has done is very positive. I see they are doing the right kind of planning and they have the private and public partnerships."



(Left-right) Maria Jose Abuabara, ProExport Columbia; Julie Balzano, National Marine Manufacturers Association; Glenn Jackman, N.C. Department of Commerce; and Joan C. Maxwell, Regulator Marine

history and great work ethic that exists in this state, as well as, the central location which will allow us to provide much improved service to our customers in the eastern portion of the U.S."

Other partners that helped with this project include N.C. Community Colleges, Isothermal Community College, Rutherford County, and the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission.



California Manufacturer to Open East Coast Facility in North Carolina

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Feb. 27 that Team Air Incorporated will locate a new manufacturing facility in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 70 jobs and invest more than \$4.2 million over the next three years in Forest City.

"Our aggressive efforts to promote economic growth and foster job creation are delivering results for North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "Team Air Inc. is an innovative company that is committing to our state and people with new jobs and a multi-million investment."

Team Air Inc., based in Fontana, CA, provides custom HVAC products to large commercial and industrial customers throughout North America for military projects, offshore drilling platforms, schools, hospitals, manufacturing facilities and large office buildings. They also provide custom products for other manufacturers of HVAC equipment. This expansion to North Carolina will allow Team Air to provide competitively priced products with shorter lead times and reduced freight to customers in the Midwest and East Coast.

"We analyzed over 40 locations across three states and it became clear: our choice location was North Carolina," said T. Nathan, Team Air, Inc. president. "We found a building most suitable for our manufacturing needs in Rutherford County and Isothermal Community College is supportive of our workforce needs. North Carolina was ready for business as the state Department of Commerce and Rutherford County outlined the economic opportunities available to Team Air. We look forward to a long relationship with the community."

[Cindy Messer](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

N.C. Companies Make Splash at Miami Boat Show

Glenn Jackman of the N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division was on deck recently at The Miami International Boat Show helping North Carolina companies break into overseas markets. The show, held Feb. 13-17, 2014 is one of the world's largest marine industry shows. Jackman coordinated the participation of more than 27 North Carolina companies while working with the U.S. Commercial Service and the [National Marine Manufacturers Association \(NMMA\)](#) to build and grow export markets for North Carolina products.

"NCDOC's most recent sponsorship of our International Buying Program (IBP) at the Miami International Boat Show is testament to NCDOC's commitment in ensuring that the strength and attributes of North Carolina and resident companies are recognized globally," said Julie Balzano, Export Development Director for NMMA. The IBP program drew 200 international business-to-business delegates from over 100 companies representing 22 countries around the world including Japan, Colombia, Brazil, China, Turkey, UAE, Europe, Korea, Canada, Ukraine, and Nigeria. The IBP program is designed to connect U.S. suppliers with these pre-qualified buyers and was only open to those who were pre-registered and screened for access to networking events.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's sponsorship of this IBP event ensured that the state was at the forefront of all activities associated with this program, thereby giving North Carolina companies direct access to these overseas buyers. Jackman marketed North Carolina by networking with the 200+ buyers as they met one-on-one with potential North Carolina suppliers, over the course of the five day show.

The N.C. Department of Commerce and North Carolina-based boat builder [Regulator Marine](#) were proud sponsors of the International Buyers Networking Cocktail Reception, held on the first evening of the show in the beautiful Miami Beach Botanical Garden. The event was attended by over 250 international buyers and NMMA members. North Carolina Marine Industry brochures and banners were prominently displayed and verbal recognition made to the entire audience, serving as yet another reminder why "buying in North Carolina" is advantageous and competitively sound.

[Read more, including a list of N.C. participating companies.](#)



(Left to right) Jed Dornburg, U.S. State Department; Maj. Clay Jackson, N.C. National Guard; Col. Bruce Thobane, Defense, Military and Air attache, Botswana; Jean Davis, N.C. Department of Commerce; Ambassador Tebelelo Mazile Seretse; Mike Arnold, N.C. Secretary of State's Office; Derek Chen, N.C. Department of Commerce

Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, Isothermal Community College, Rutherford County, and the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission.



N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker offering remarks in Alexander County

Secretary Decker visits Alexander County

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, along with N.C. Representative Mark Hollo, visited Alexander County on Friday, Feb. 21 to discuss economic development issues and opportunities. Decker and Hollo met with local elected officials, county employees, and citizens at the Alexander County Board of Education.

Growing up in Gastonia, and living in Rutherfordton, Secretary Decker said she has a true passion for communities like Alexander County.

"We must do things to make North Carolina more competitive. The world is urbanizing, but the rural parts are not growing. We can have a healthy rural North Carolina," she related. "My belief is that economic development happens at the community level. You're the ones who make Alexander County grow. What you do is really important."

Decker outlined her five tenets of prosperous communities, which include health; education; economic development; arts, tourism, and culture; and quality of life and the environment.

"We must focus on the fundamentals to get back on track," Decker stated.

She spoke more in-depth on the item of economic development, noting that the key areas include job recruitment, being prepared for business and industry, having quality buildings, shovel-ready projects, infrastructure, small business development, exporting, and focusing on the "legacy" sectors of agribusiness, textiles, and furniture.

Officials from Botswana Visit North Carolina

International ties between North Carolina and the nation of Botswana were renewed during a recent visit to Raleigh by the African country's ambassador to the United States.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Tebelelo Mazile Seretse and Botswana's Defense, Military and Air attache Bruce N. Thobane visited the state February 17 - 20 as part of the N.C. National Guard State Partnership Program. This program, which initially linked the N.C. National Guard with the Botswana Defense Force has also developed into a bilateral civilian partnership.

During her visit to the N.C. Department of Commerce the Ambassador met with Commerce representatives from the Business and Industry and International Trade Divisions. Discussions centered on two-way trade prospects. While providing insights on her country, Ambassador Seretse conversed about Botswana's vibrant and growing economy as well as the remarkable economic development opportunities of her country.

In addition to her visit at the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the Ambassador was scheduled to meet with the Governor, the N.C. Secretary of State and numerous institutions including the Research Triangle Park, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke, the N.C. National Guard, the N.C. Zoo and the N.C. State Laboratory of Public Health.



Historic Fleming Stadium in Wilson

Decker Visits Wilson Landmark

N.C. Commerce Secretary Decker visited the Historic Fleming Stadium in Wilson, North Carolina on Feb 28. The stadium was built in 1939 with funds from The Works Progress Administration (WPA). The first game played was June 7, 1939 and the facility will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year.

The Wilson Tobs, a summer collegiate team and member of the Coastal Plain League, enters its 18th year at Historic Fleming Stadium this season. Play opens May 25 and runs through August 1.

Historic Fleming Stadium is also home to North Carolina's only baseball museum which Secretary Decker also toured.

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - March 3, 2014

| | |
|--|-------|
| New projects assigned: | 57 |
| Projects announced: | 20 |
| Jobs announced: | 964 |
| Capital investment announced: | \$83M |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 90 |
| Calls to Business Link N.C.: | 3,381 |

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [N.C. ranks 7th in Governor's Cup race, again](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Mar. 3)
- [NC shines in strong month for renewable energy](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 28)
- [Bob Ingram: RTP plan includes 'signature bridge' over I-40](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 27)
- [RF Micro to merge with TriQuint](#) (*Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Feb. 24)
- [Center Events Stretch Entrepreneurial Thinking, Boundaries](#) (*Greater Wilmington Business Journal*, Feb. 21)

(919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

Building Location:

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:

4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Invite a Friend](#) [Unsubscribe](#) [Subscribe](#) feedback@nc-sync.com [SYNC archive](#)

© 2014 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.
